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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/675,155	09/29/2000	Elizabeth Ann Murphy	19046.0001	3336

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BINGHAM MCCUTCHEN LLP
2020 K Street, N.W.
Intellectual Property Department
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

CRABTREE, JOSHUA DAVID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/14/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/675,155

Applicant(s)

MURPHY ET AL.

Examiner

Joshua D. Crabtree

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 16-18, 20-32, 35-37, 39-51, 54-56 and 58-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-13, 16-18, 20-32, 35-37, 39-51, 54-56, and 58-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the amendment dated 12/11/2006. Claims 14, 15, 19, 33, 34, 38, 52, 53, and 57 have been cancelled. Claims 1-13, 16-18, 20-32, 35-37, 39-51, 54-56, and 58-72 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
2. Claim 1-12, 16, 18, 20-31, 35-37, 39-50, 54-56, and 58-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simon (US 6,498,920) in view of Ghosh et al. (US 2001/0032094).

With regard to claims 1-12, 16, 17, 20-31, 35, 36, 39-50, 54, 55, and 58-72, Simon discloses all of the limitations as claimed (as described in the previous office action),

with the exception of the feature wherein the user profile also includes any professional licenses held by the user and any critical dates (as in claims 1, 20, and 39). Ghosh et al. teach a system in which a user profile contains such information as licensing information and critical dates (Paragraph [0033]; *Fig. 3 shows Agent Details, which include licensing information and critical date information, items 34 and 35*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the teaching of Ghosh et al. into the invention of Simon in order to provide a compliance training program in which a user profile may also contain licensing information and critical dates. Simon discloses that the invention is directed toward a compliance training system for companies which may have compliance training needs (Col. 1: 5-12). Ghosh teaches a system which may be used for tracking and maintaining information related to a company's compliance needs (Paragraph [0003]). Maintaining current licenses could be an important part of a company's compliance requirements, and being able to track license and date information (such as when a license expires) would be advantageous in ensuring this compliance.

With regard to claims 18, 37, and 56, Simon does not disclose the limitation of providing notification including at least one of a dialog to users communicating updates to compliance knowledge, a dialog communicating additional training requirements, a dialog communicating upcoming examination, or a dialog communicating continuing education requirements. Ghosh et al. teach the feature wherein the system may contact and notify agents of upcoming licensing requirements,

expiration of certifications (i.e., change in compliance knowledge) (Paragraph [0014]), regarding a change in licensing requirements (i.e., updates to compliance knowledge) (Paragraph [0059]), and regarding schedules of Continuing Education offerings (Paragraph [0065]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the teaching of Ghosh et al. into the invention of Simon in order to provide a training system in which the user is alerted to areas in which he or she requires improvement. This would enable the employee to understand what skills he or she may lack, which may be necessary to retain his or her job.

3. Claims 13, 32, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simon in view of Ghosh et al., as applied above, and further in view of Alcorn et al. (US 6,988,138). Simon, as modified by Ghosh et al., does not disclose the limitation of embedding in the first segment of information an object operable to initiate communication with at least one other user. Alcorn et al. teach a chat feature, which a user may access by clicking on a virtual chat link, which allows a user to initiate contact with another user (Col. 15: 57-65; Item 1210 in Fig. 12). Alcorn et al. teach that some instructors may prefer a group or collaborative approach, and that this feature provides for student group interaction and collaboration within a course (Col. 8: 34-47). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the teaching of Alcorn et al. into the invention of Simon, as modified by

Ghosh et al., in order to provide an instructional system in which users may communicate with one another for collaborative purposes.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13, 16-18, 20-32, 35-37, 39-51, 54-56, and 58-72 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

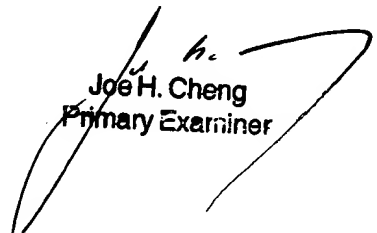
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua D. Crabtree whose telephone number is 571-272-8962. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JC
Joshua D. Crabtree
March 8, 2007


Joe H. Cheng
Primary Examiner 